

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We write to thank the Subcommittee for its previous support, and to urge you to support robust funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) Office of Museum Services (OMS) in the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

Despite its small size, the IMLS Office of Museum Services is the largest dedicated source of investment in our nation's museums, which support over 700,000 jobs and contribute \$50 billion annually to the U.S. economy. OMS funding plays a significant role in this economic impact by helping museums reach more visitors and spur community development. In addition to their economic benefits, OMS grants also support museums' advancements in areas such as technology, lifelong community learning, and conservation and preservation. These successes notwithstanding, only a small fraction of the nation's museums are currently being reached and many highly rated grant applications go unfunded.

The demand for museum services is greater than ever. At a time when school and community resources are strained, museums are working overtime to fill the gaps. Every year, they welcome more than 55 million schoolchildren, bring art, science and cultural heritage into communities, and partner with other nonprofits to meet the specific needs of their local population. In addition, our nation's museums are opening their doors to more people than ever with over 850 million visits each year – with many of these visitors offered free or reduced admission. Museums are also part of a robust nonprofit community working to address a wide range of our nation's greatest challenges, from conducting medical research to helping veterans heal physically and psychologically, and from creating energy efficient public buildings to collecting food for needy families.

When the Institute of Museum and Library Services was last reauthorized, the legislation cleared both the House and Senate unanimously. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants leverage significant private resources while supporting museums in every state.

We urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY 2019 to support the important work museums are doing in our districts. This vital funding will aid museums of all types and enable them to continue bolstering the economy, serving our schools and communities, and preserving our cultural heritage for future generations.

Again, we appreciate the Subcommittee's prior support for OMS and request this investment to strengthen and sustain the work of our nation's museums.

Sincerely,



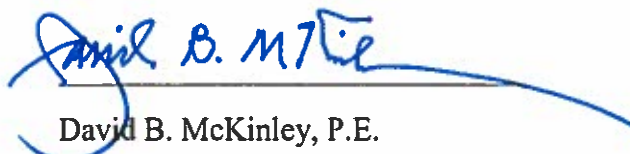
Paul Tonko




Leonard Lance



Louise M. Slaughter



David B. McKinley, P.E.



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.



Suzanne Bonamici



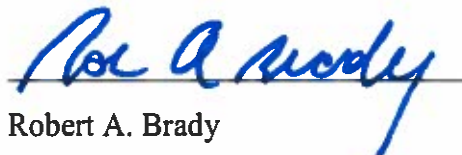
Earl Blumenauer



Brendan F. Boyle



Alma S. Adams



Robert A. Brady




Andy Barr



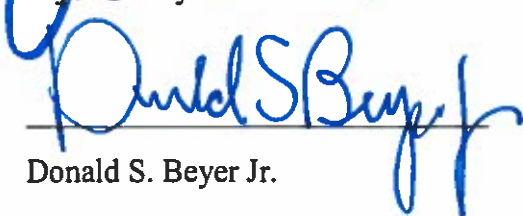
Anthony G. Brown



Joyce Beatty



Julia Brownley



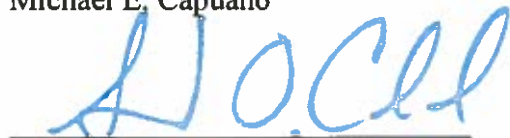
Donald S. Beyer Jr.



Cheri Bustos


S. K. Butterfield


Michael E. Capuano


Salud Carbajal


Tony Cardenas


André Carson

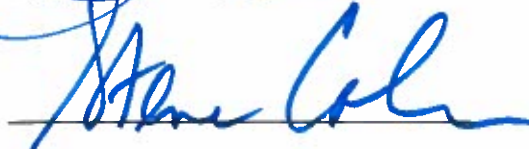

Kathy Castor



Judy Chu


David N. Cicilline


Yvette D. Clarke


Emanuel Cleaver, II


Steve Cohen


Chris Collins

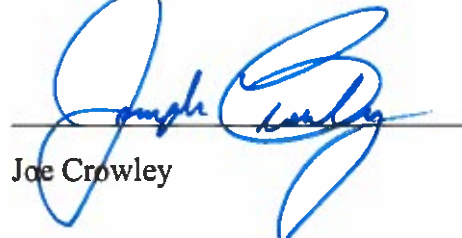

Barbara Comstock


Gerald E. Connolly


Joe Courtney


Kevin Cramer


Charlie Crist


Joe Crowley



Danny K. Davis



Susan A. Davis



Rodney Davis



Peter A. DeFazio



Diana DeGette



John K. Delaney



Suzan K. DelBene



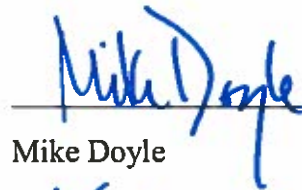
Mark DeSaulnier



Ted Deutch



Debbie Dingell




Mike Doyle



Keith Ellison



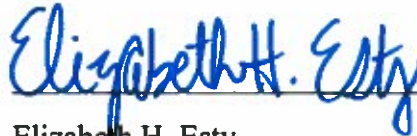
Eliot L. Engel



Anna G. Eshoo



Adriano Espaillat



Elizabeth H. Esty



Dwight Evans



John J. Faso

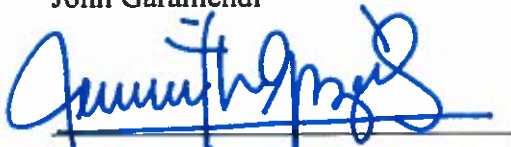

Brian Fitzpatrick



Bill Foster


Marcia L. Fudge


Ruben Gallego

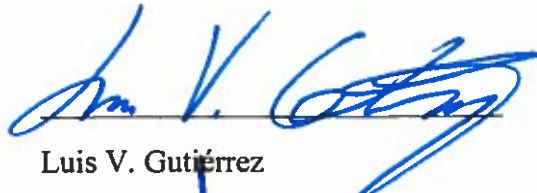

John Garamendi



Jenniffer González-Colón



Josh Gottheimer


Al Green



Raúl M. Grijalva

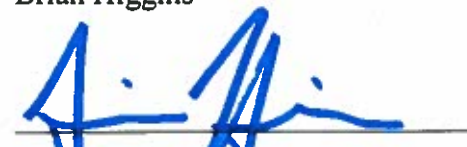

Luis V. Gutiérrez



Colleen Hanabusa


Alcee L. Hastings


Denny Heck


Brian Higgins


Jim Himes


Eleanor Holmes Norton


Jared Huffman


Will Hurd



Pramila Jayapal



Hakeem Jeffries



Eddie Bernice Johnson



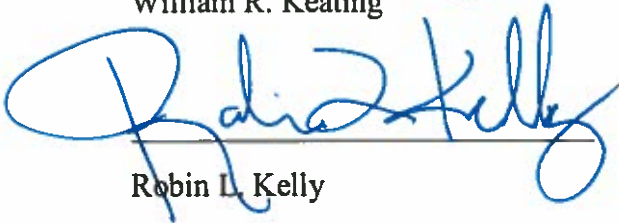
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.



John Katko



William R. Keating



Robin L. Kelly



Joseph P. Kennedy III



Ruben J. Kihuen



Daniel T. Kildee



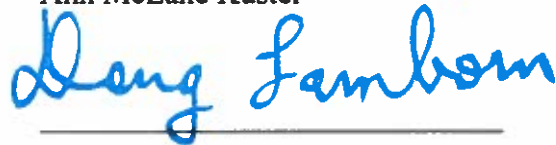
Ron Kind



Raja Krishnamoorthi



Ann McLane Kuster



Doug Lamborn



James R. Langevin



John B. Larson



Brenda L. Lawrence



Al Lawson



Barbara Lee



Sheila Jackson Lee



Sander M. Levin



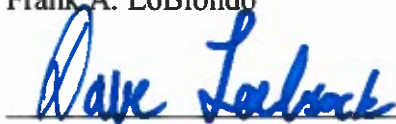
John Lewis



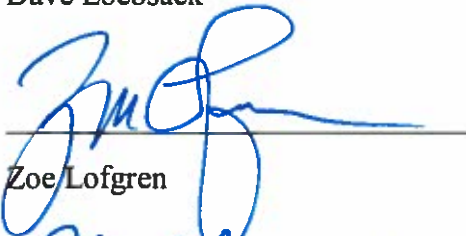
Daniel W. Lipinski



Frank A. LoBiondo



Dave Loebsack



Zoe Lofgren




Alan Lowenthal



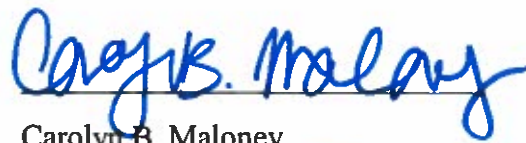
Ben Ray Luján



Michelle Lujan Grisham



Stephen F. Lynch



Carolyn B. Maloney



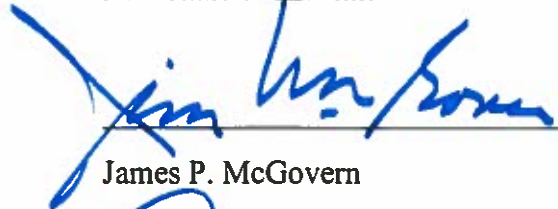
Sean Patrick Maloney



Doris Matsui



A. Donald McEachin



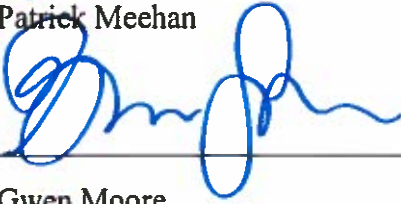
James P. McGovern



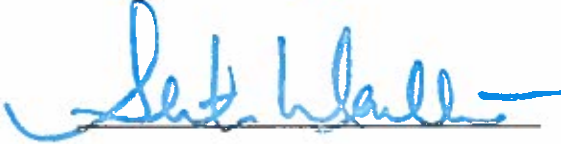
Jerry McNerney



Patrick Meehan



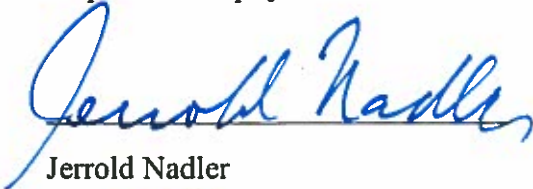
Gwen Moore



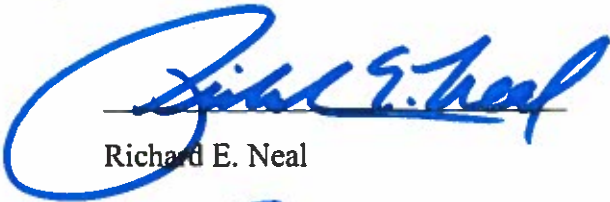
Seth Moulton



Stephanie Murphy



Jerrold Nadler



Richard E. Neal



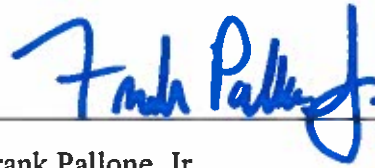
Richard M. Nolan



Tom O'Halleran



Beto O'Rourke



Frank Pallone, Jr.



Bill Pascrell, Jr.



Donald M. Payne, Jr.



Ed Perlmutter



Scott H. Peters



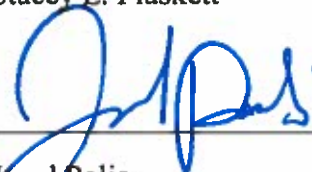
Collin C. Peterson



Chellie Pingree



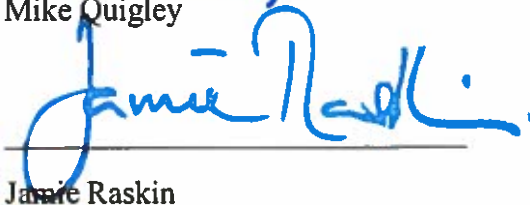
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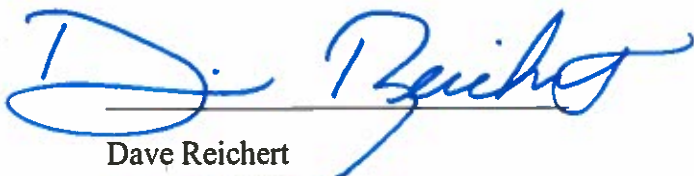
Jared Polis



Mike Quigley



Jamie Raskin



Dave Reichert



Cedric L. Richmond



Kathleen M. Rice



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen



Jacky Rosen



Dennis A. Ross



C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger



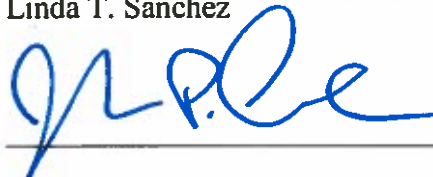
Bobby L. Rush



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan



Linda T. Sánchez



John Sarbanes



Jan Schakowsky



Adam B. Schiff



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott



David Scott



Bradley S. Schneider

Pete Sessions

Pete Sessions

Carol Shea-Porter

Carol Shea-Porter

Kyristen Sinema

Kyristen Sinema

Albio Sires

Albio Sires

Adam Smith

Adam Smith

Darren Soto

Darren Soto

Jackie Speier

Jackie Speier

Elise M. Stefanik

Elise M. Stefanik

Eric Swalwell

Eric Swalwell

Mark Takano

Mark Takano

Glenn 'GT' Thompson

Glenn 'GT' Thompson

Mike Thompson

Mike Thompson

Scott Tipton

Scott Tipton

Dina Titus

Dina Titus

Dave Trott

Dave Trott

Niki Tsongas

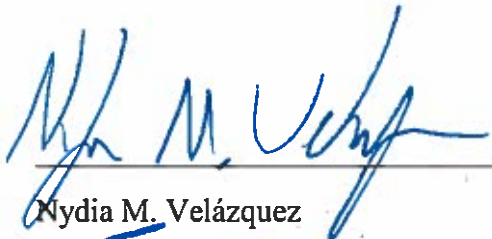
Niki Tsongas

Marc Veasey

Marc Veasey

Filemon Vela

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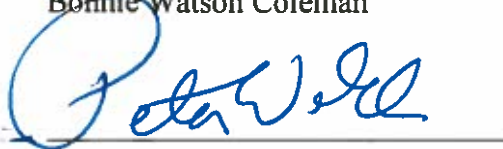
Nydia M. Velázquez



Tim Walz



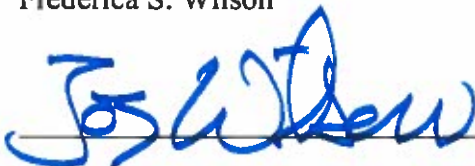
Bonnie Watson Coleman



Peter Welch



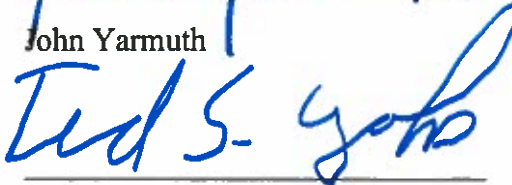
Frederica S. Wilson



Joe Wilson



John Yarmuth



Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M




Don Young



Donald Norcross



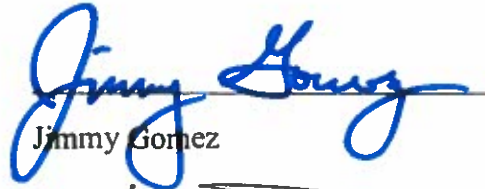
Tulsi Gabbard



Lloyd Doggett



Lisa Blunt Rochester



Jimmy Gomez



Gregory Meeks



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen



Wm. Lacy Clay





J. Luis Correa


Jimmy Panetta


Karen Bass


Michael R. Turner


Ted W. Lieu


Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.


Mike Coffman